

Friends of the South Slopes

November 2020



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BC Parks Approves Two FOSS projects

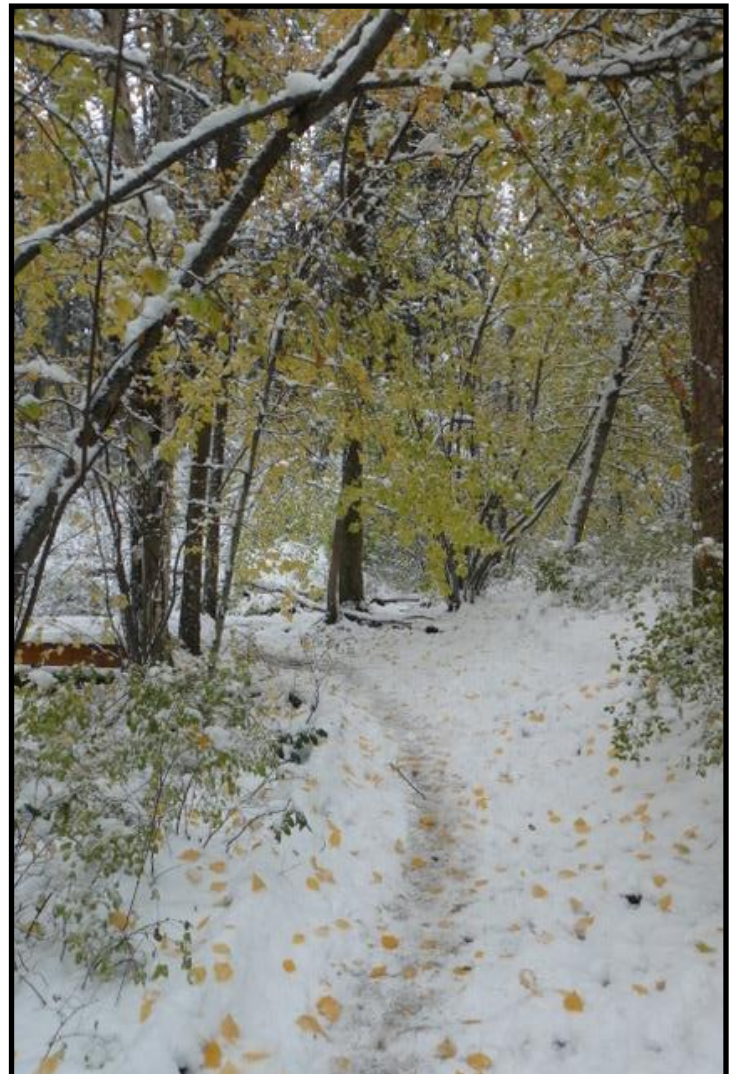
Regional staff at BC Parks have approved the following projects and have provided Letters of Authorization allowing FOSS to proceed:

1. Bellevue Access Trail—rechanneling the Priest Creek crossing (to be completed before the end of June, 2021)
2. Myra Wetlands Clean-up Project: cleanup of the old well site including the installation of fencing and signage for the closure of the trails throughout the area. This project will take place in winter 2020/21 on frozen ground, with a completion date by March 31, 2021)

FOSS wishes to thank BC Parks for contributing \$1,835 towards these projects. FOSS will also be contributing funds to the project — so thank you to all of our members and supporters who continue to donate to FOSS!

BC Parks is still awaiting approval of a third proposed project, the Golden Mile Trailhead Improvement Project, as that is under the jurisdiction of the BC Ministry of Transportation.

*First snowfall of the winter, Oct 24, 2020
Fairlane Trail near Allan's Bridge.*



....A little bit of 'history' on Fairlane Trail, Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park

We've had some fun on the FOSS Facebook page lately, as folks post their memories of the old Ford Fairlane wreck that appeared in the Park in the 90's. Of course at that time, Myra-Bellevue was not a Provincial Park—it was Crown Land and was open for motorized traffic — everything from 4x4 trucks to dirt bikes.



Pre-Okanagan Mtn. Provincial Park forest fire: a mountain biker doing a night jump!

Photo contributed by Andrew McIntosh,.
The photo was originally posted by Pinkbike.com

Below: This is what the site looked like in October, 2003, following the OMPP wildfire



← And this is what the 'Fairlane' looks like today!



Lucky sighting by FOSS member Jade Hollenbeck

Trail Maintenance Report

FOSS' crews have been remarkably busy since getting back into the Parks and have a lot of the trails in MBPP looking like landing strips! Everyone is telling us they're lovin' it! And in terms of safety, for those still hiking and biking and riding, there actually *is* a 'landing strip': a 'heli-pad' has been established below the KVR, with trails widened to accommodate UTV access from several directions.



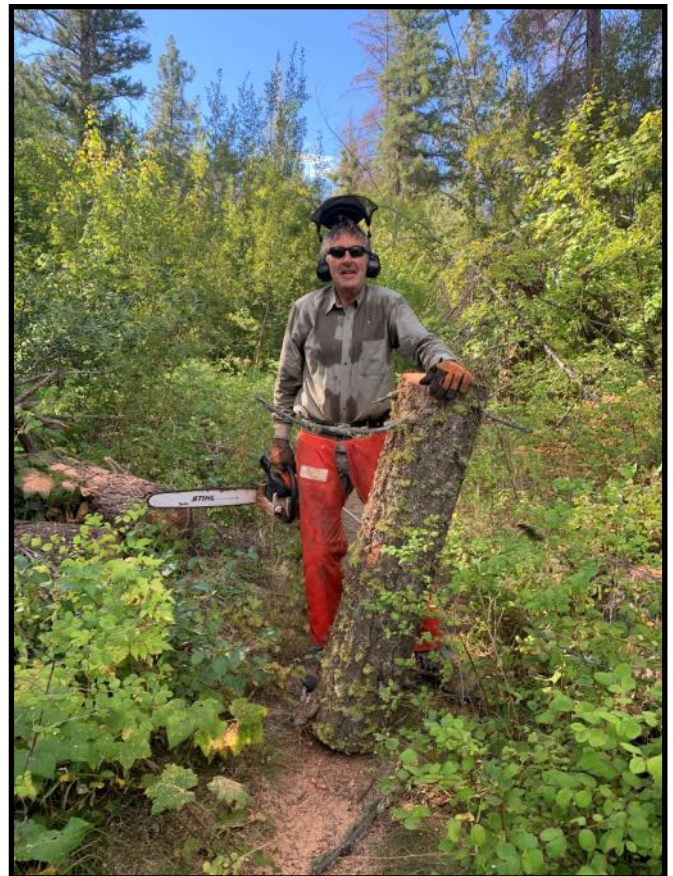
Location of the heli-pad
(Photo Credit: A. Milnes)

We are still awaiting word as to the upgrading of the access to Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park at the Golden Mile Trail – hopefully that can happen soon so we get at the BIG job of clearing Wild Horse Canyon!

Now that the weather has turned, all the equipment is being winterized and will be ready for next spring!



Volunteers repaired Hachey Cr. Bridge on Fairlane Loop Trail



Clearing a windfall from Ridgeview Trail

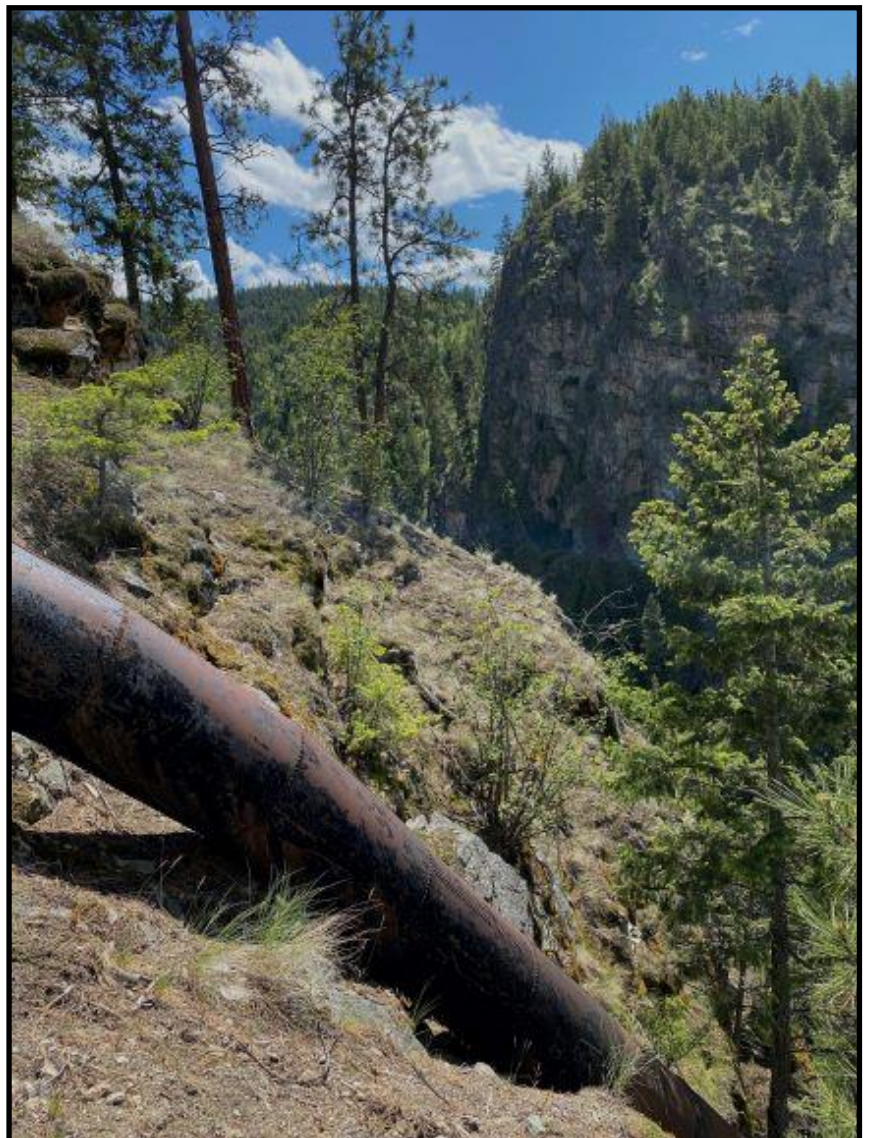
Winter 2020/21

South East Kelowna Wildfire Mitigation Project

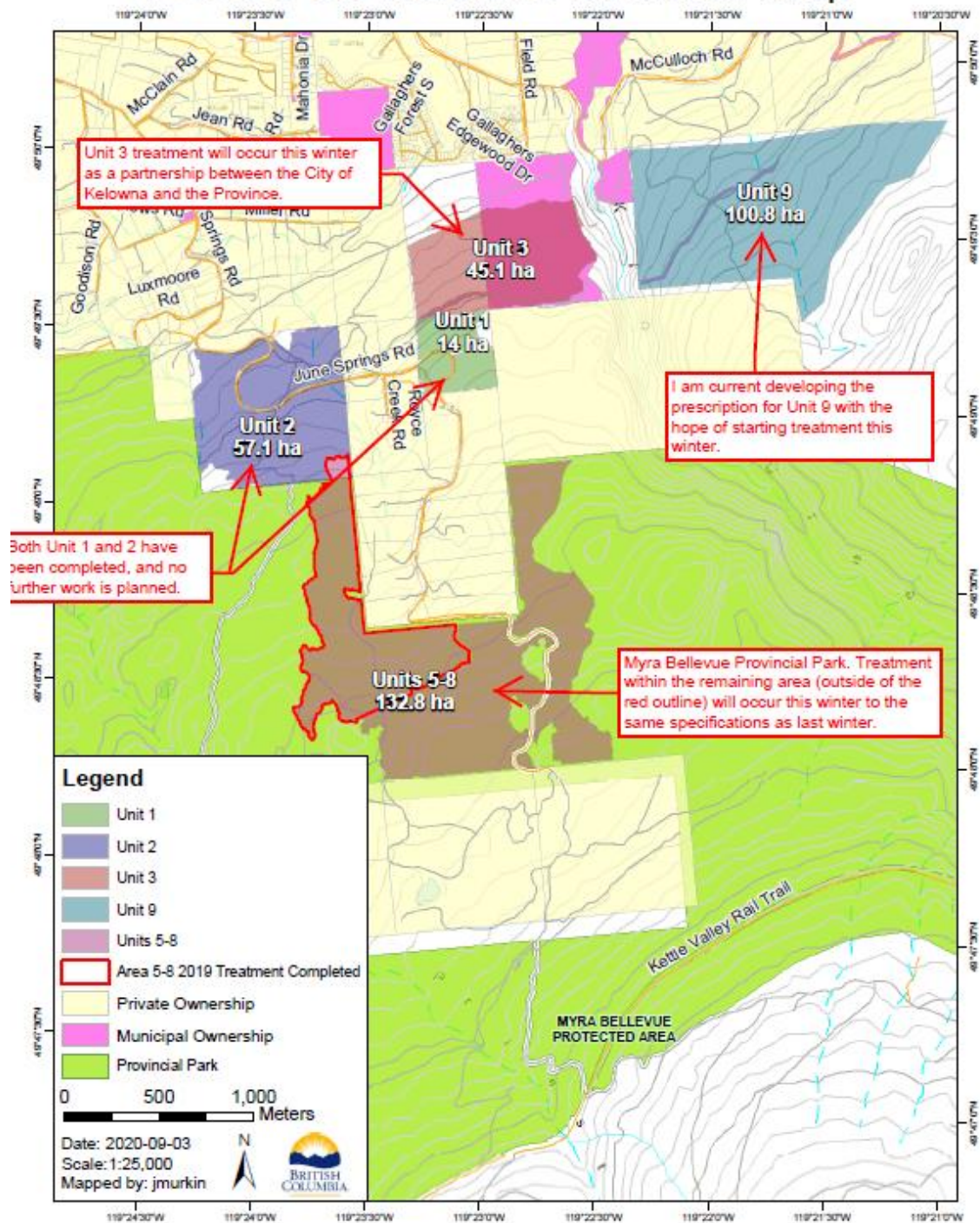
Jonathan Murkin, RFT, Land & Resource Coordinator (Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development/Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District) has updated FOSS on the *Forest Enhancement Society of BC's* mitigation project for this winter. Jonathan has provided FOSS with the maps and detailed information that outline the project.

- The Crown land off June Springs Rd., west of Myra Canyon Adventure Park, and the Crown land north and south of June Springs Rd. (Hromek/Swings Both Ways/Piper's Trail) as well as a section of MBPPP (Myra Bailout Trail), were completed over the past two winters.
- This winter, the City of Kelowna Utility Property (formerly SEKID) and the adjacent Crown lot, through a partnership between the City and the Province, are scheduled for treatment. This area encompasses what FOSS refers to as the 'KMRA' (KLO Creek Myra Recreation area), lying west of KLO Creek Regional Park. FOSS has held a Trail Use Agreement for maintaining and preserving these trails on the Utility Property, and will be working with the City to renew that agreement following the 2020/21 wildfire mitigation project. FOSS has also filed a Section 57 with the Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations (a trail management application) for the trails on the Crown lots. FOSS will be meeting on site with Jonathan this month to review the project in this area and discuss the rehabilitation of the existing trails following the mitigation work. A meeting with Andrew Hunsberger (Urban Forestry Supervisor, City of Kelowna) is being planned.
- Also this winter, areas of Myra-Bellevue Provincial Park will be included in the mitigation work, including sections of the Myra Bailout Trail.
- Jonathan is currently developing the plan for the Crown land lying east of KLO Creek Regional Park and treatment may commence there this winter as well. This area has outstanding historical value with the well preserved irrigation flumes and syphons. (See photo on right)
- An overview map with details of the wildfire mitigation project, was provided to FOSS by Jonathan, and can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

FOSS will keep its members informed as to when this work will begin—as there will be trail closures in effect.



FESBC SE Kelowna Overview Map



View from Rocky Screech
Nov. 12, 2020